

Children and the Law
Spring 2014

Monday and Wednesday – 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Professor Ellen Marrus

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Office hours: Monday: 10:30 AM to Noon
Wednesday: 10:30 AM to Noon
And by appointment.

Book:

CHILD WELFARE LAW AND PRACTICE: REPRESENTING CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND STATE AGENCIES IN ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND DEPENDENCY CASES, Duquette & Haralambie (eds.).

Additional materials will be distributed during the semester.

Objectives:

1. Students will learn the substantive law of child welfare proceedings.
2. Students will consider practical and ethical issues in this area.
3. Students will learn skills necessary to represent children and parents in these hearings.

Assignments:

All assignments are subject to change. Reading assignments on the syllabus are from CHILD WELFARE LAW AND PRACTICE and the additional readings will be posted electronically or distributed in class. Role play assignments will be distributed in class.

Class Participation:

All students are expected to be on time. Persistent problems with attendance and/or tardiness will result in a reduced participation grade OR being dropped from the class rolls. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late to class you will be counted absent for that day. Students are not allowed to miss more than five classes.

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on the following:

30 Points – Class Participation – This will be based on your individual participation in class discussions and any group participation.

100 Points – Role plays – Almost every week there will be role plays to complete in class. You will be graded on your preparation and the quality of your work, verbal and

written. Some role plays may include the preparation of written motions or petitions. More details will follow.

50 Points – Final case file. Each student will be responsible for maintaining a case file during the semester. The file will be turned in at the end of the semester and will be graded.

Students with Disabilities:

The faculty, staff and administration of the Law Center want to provide every reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, including learning disabilities. For detailed information, please obtain a copy of the disabilities handbook available through Student Services. I will be happy to work with that office and you to make any necessary accommodations.